



GENDER Impact  
Platform



“From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems”



CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform – Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) International  
Conference

October 9-12, 2023, in Delhi, India

Are you looking forward to presenting your cutting-edge research at the annual GENDER research conference? If yes, then submit your abstract by June 23, 2023!

Read on to learn about abstract submission requirements, partnership opportunities, themes, and conference venue.

We look forward to seeing you in New Delhi!

## About the conference

Inscribed in the tradition of the annual [CGIAR GENDER conferences](#), the international conference **“From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems”** addresses the gender and social inequalities at the heart of food systems. The conference aims to promote the sharing of cutting-edge knowledge on gender and inclusion in food systems to help bridge the gap between research and practice and foster gender-equal and socially inclusive, resilient food systems. The conference will actively engage a diverse group of researchers and other actors from academic and research institutes, National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), donors, policymakers, the private sector, and more, working toward the shared goal of equitable agri-food systems transformation. The conference will offer opportunities to strengthen capacities, social networks, and partnerships for impact.

### Venue

The conference will be an in-person event held in New Delhi, India, on October 9-12, 2023, at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Convention Center. Although some high-level sessions will be live-streamed, *it will not be a hybrid event*, so we hope you will be able to join us in New Delhi!

The conference is co-organized by:

- [CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform](#)
- [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#)

### Important dates

May 12: Abstract submission opens

June 23: Early-bird Registration opens

June 23: Abstract submission deadline

July 7: Applicants are notified of results

July 15: Early-bird registration closes/Regular registration begins

August 15: All presenters must be registered to be included in the program

September 30: Registration closes

October 9-12: Conference - Welcome to Delhi!

### Conference themes

We invite contributions that consider the links between research, evidence, and impacts on gender equality and social inclusion, and their relationship with other food system outcomes (diets, nutrition and health; poverty and livelihoods; environmental health; climate resilience). What kinds of evidence, innovations, and combinations thereof, developed and used under which conditions, can be

levers of transformative change? And how can research for development processes and all that they entail – equitable partnerships, etc. – catalyze gender transformative change in food systems?

Under this broad umbrella, we invite contributions on the following themes:

1. A gender and social inclusion lens on resilience in the context of climate change, COVID and other shocks and stresses
2. From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agri-food systems
3. Gender-responsive and transformative agrifood systems innovations
4. Fostering equitable market systems
5. Delivering nutrition, food security, and health for all
6. Youth and agrifood systems
7. Other

Learn more about each theme below:

## 1. A gender and social inclusion lens on resilience in the context of climate change, COVID and other shocks and stresses

Theme Leads: [Eileen Nchanji](#) (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT), [Sahar Alnouri](#) (Mercy Corps)

Although rural women in all their diversity often possess specialized knowledge and skills that contribute to climate-resilient agriculture, their typical exclusion from decision-making processes limits their ability to shape policies and programs that affect their lives. Additionally, the impacts of conflict and COVID-19 are unevenly distributed due to existing gender inequalities in access to resources, formal education, information, finance, health care, and economic opportunities, care responsibilities, and more. This theme addresses the gendered dimensions of these challenges and their root causes, and explores approaches that elevate women's voices, address unequal work burdens and power dynamics, and increase equitable access to information, markets, and lucrative economic opportunities. We invite contributions on effective strategies for mitigating and adapting to multiple shocks and stresses, and promoting sustainable development for women, their families, and their communities, particularly from an intersectional perspective.

Subthemes may include:

- Understanding the gender and social inclusion impacts of climate change, COVID, conflict and other shocks and stresses on agriculture and food systems.
- Examining the role of gender and other social relations in shaping adaptive and transformative capacities for building resilience.
- Exploring the links between individual agency and household and community resilience to climate shocks and stresses.
- Understanding the gendered implications of safety nets and humanitarian response to climate and conflict shocks and their impacts on the agri-food systems.

- Assessing the gender inclusiveness of policies addressing climate and other shocks and stresses within the agri-food system.
- Developing gender-responsive solutions to food crises in the context of climate change and other shocks and stresses.
- Analyzing gendered considerations for, and impacts of, climate finance for agriculture and food systems.
- Conflict-sensitive, gender- and socially inclusive approaches to agriculture and food systems.

## 2. From women’s empowerment to gender transformative change in agrifood systems

Theme Leads: [Esther Achandi](#) (International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)), [Amon Mwiine](#) (Makerere University)

In this theme, we invite contributions that help **conceptualize** and **assess** women’s empowerment, social (gender) norms, masculinities and femininities, and gender transformative change as well as the linkages among these. We explore **approaches** and **innovations** that can transform the social and gender norms that restrict the achievement of equitable, sustainable food systems. We seek practical lessons and implications from **success stories** as well as from interventions or larger change processes that have had **unintended** disempowering **effects** on women and gender equality in agri-food systems.

Subthemes may include:

- Conceptualizing and unpacking women’s empowerment, masculinities, social (gender) norms, and gender transformative change in agrifood systems.
- Assessing and/or measuring women’s empowerment or gender transformative change.
- Exploring how women’s empowerment, masculinities, norms, and gender transformative change are linked conceptually and in programming.
- Evidence of approaches that have created pathways for attaining and sustaining women’s empowerment and gender transformative change in food systems, and of their effects.
- Analysis of principles, approaches, challenges and opportunities for engaging men and masculinities towards gender transformative change in agrifood systems.
- Emerging challenges, gaps, and rolling back of gender equality gains in agrifood systems.
- Examining and addressing gender-based violence in agrifood systems.

## 3. Gender-responsive and -transformative agri-food systems innovations

Theme leads: [Vivian Polar](#) (International Potato Center (CIP)), [Vidya Vemireddy](#) (Indian Institute of Management – Ahmedabad (IIMA))

Access to information, quality inputs, capital, markets, land, and more are not equitably distributed across gender groups. The problem is complex and encompasses a lack of understanding of agri-food systems and technologies that enable inclusive and equitable productivity and income gains.

Technology and innovation are seldom, if ever, gender neutral. To advance towards gender equality and inclusive development, women and men from various socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds must have equal ability and opportunity to innovate, and to adapt, adopt, and benefit from agri-food systems innovations. In this theme, we invite contributions that conceptualize, assess, and/or evaluate the gender-responsiveness or gender-transformative potential of agri-food system innovations that address the production, distribution, and/or consumption of food.

Subthemes may include:

- Identifying metrics/measures to assess the inclusivity and gender-responsiveness or gender-transformative potential of agri-food systems innovations and their associated gendered outcomes.
- Exploring the underlying behavioral and socio-economic factors shaping the (non)adoption of these innovations.
- Assessing outcomes of gender-responsive production technologies and innovations, including crop/livestock/fish improvement, mechanization, sustainable intensification, and digital innovations.
- Identifying the gendered benefits and pitfalls of approaches and interventions aiming to promote inclusive biodiversity, natural resource, water, and landscape management, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and agroforestry, and livestock development and pastures.
- Examining the role of social innovations, including collective action and institutional change, in advancing gender equality and social inclusion in agri-food systems.
- Examining socio-technical bundles, and their impacts and promise for equitable agri-food systems.

## 4. Fostering equitable market systems

Theme Leads: [Rahma Adam](#) (WorldFish), [Sabdiyo Dido](#) (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA))

This theme seeks to shed light on how to create an enabling agri-food market environment for women, youth, poor men, and other marginalized individuals and communities. It examines how these social groups can not only fully participate in, but also benefit equitably from, agri-food market innovations and systems.

Subthemes may include:

- Gendered access to assets and resources (financial, knowledge, networks, labor, among others) that enable participation in and benefits from agri-food market systems.
- The quality and inclusiveness of engagement (participation, benefits, etc.) across agri-food value chains (high, medium and low nodes).
- Gender (in)equity in formal and informal agri-food sectors, and interconnections across sectors.
- Gender equality and social inclusion in cross-border trade of agri-food commodities.
- Policies and regulations (e.g., licenses, certification, taxation) supporting or hindering gender equality in agri-food market systems.
- Engagement and commitment of private, government and development sectors towards gender equality and social inclusion in market systems.
- Gender-responsive and -transformative approaches for addressing social norms and barriers that impede gender equality in agri-food market systems.

- The potential of corporate social responsibility, voluntary sustainability standards (e.g., third-party certification systems) and other alternative market schemes for promoting gender equality.

## 5. Delivering nutrition, food security, and health for all

Theme leads: [Neha Kumar](#) (International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)) and [Sapna Desai](#) (Population Council)

Women play a significant role within the food system – as farmers, processors, traders, and consumers. However, entrenched gender inequities – reflected in income and asset disparities between women and men, norms that prioritize the nutrition of men and boys over women and girls, women’s limited decision-making power in the household, and more – contribute to persistently lower health and nutrition outcomes for women and girls in many settings. Addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment within food systems is critical for improving women’s health and well-being and progressing towards food and nutrition security for all. This theme seeks contributions that address gender issues across the links between food security, nutrition and health, with a specific focus on agri-food systems.

Sub-themes may include:

- Links between gender (in)equality and/or women's empowerment and nutrition, health and food security.
- Gender inequality in paid and/or unpaid (care, etc.) work within the agrifood system – stemming from formal and informal institutions and structures – that shape gendered nutrition and health outcomes.
- Gender gaps in access to and control over productive resources that lead to gender disparities in food security, nutrition and health outcomes.
- Gender analyses of resilience to shocks and of social protection as these relate to food security, nutrition and health outcomes.
- Emerging issues, new conceptual framings related to gender and food security, nutrition and health in agrifood systems such as:
  - Gender-responsive nutrition interventions in agrifood systems.
  - The intersection of gender and one health.

## 6. Youth and agrifood systems

Theme Leads: [Indika Arulingam](#) (International Water Management Institute (IWMI)), [Dorte Thorsen](#) (Institute of Development Studies (IDS))

Young people are increasingly considered a distinct group in interventions seeking socially inclusive food systems outcomes. However, they are often constructed in relation to adults or stereotyped. In this theme, we invite contributions that shed light on young people as food systems actors in their own right and reflect on how food system interventions and transformations can provide productive and rewarding livelihoods for young people. Contributions that consider the intersectionalities that shape young people’s identities, social positions and their opportunities, barriers and choices are particularly welcome.

Subthemes may include:

- Young people's engagements with agrifood systems across supply chains (food production, processing, trading and beyond).
- Rural transitions, migration, and diverse, multi-local and multi-sectoral livelihoods.
- Youth aspirations and how they shape interactions with food systems livelihoods.
- Youthful gender dynamics in agriculture, agrifood trade and/or processing.
- Youth perspectives on intergenerational dynamics in agrifood systems.
- Intersectionality in youth studies in agri-food systems.

## 7. Other

We additionally welcome contributions that fall under the broad conference theme, but do not clearly fit under the six themes outlined above.

### Many types of contributions are possible:

We invite proposals for 1) full sessions or 2) single contributions in various formats related to the conference themes.

#### Full Sessions

##### *a. Capacity Strengthening Sessions*

The first day of the conference will consist of interactive capacity-strengthening sessions of 1.5 hours each. These sessions will dive into a methodology, themes or concepts in gender research, or another topic such as integrating gender in training or curricula or career pathways on gender in food systems. These sessions may take various formats including interactive break-out sessions.

##### *b. Panel Sessions*

Panel sessions of 1.5 hours each will convene distinguished speakers around a critical theme, issue or angle to address gender in agriculture and food systems. Speakers may be from research or other sectors- civil society, practice, policy, private sector, and donors- who will share insights from different perspectives and speak to the demand for and application of gender research.

##### *c. Full Scientific Sessions*

Scientific sessions of 1.5 hours will foster active participation and discussions. Organizers can propose a full session in a format of their choosing. *(Please note that for sessions consisting of a series of oral presentations, abstracts are requested for each proposed presentation. If the full session is not accepted, individual abstracts will be considered for inclusion in other sessions.)*

##### *d. Open Stream Sessions*

We invite 1.5-hour sessions in innovative formats, such as:

- Documentaries or audio-visual material (photos and videos) integrated into sessions and discussed or made available for viewing asynchronously.
- Debates, research pitches, etc.

- Roundtables
- Book or report launches

And much more!

## Single Contributions

### a. Oral Presentations

Single oral presentations will be grouped by Theme Leads into thematic sessions of 3-4 presentations.

### b. Posters

Posters will be available for viewing through the conference and will be presented during poster sessions. There will be a 'best poster' award.



### Submission requirements and selection criteria

\*\*To allow as many presenters as possible to contribute to the conference, each participant is allowed to submit no more than two abstracts as main presenter of individual contributions (oral presentation or poster) and only one proposal as a primary organizer of a full session (capacity strengthening, panel, scientific session or open stream). There is no limit to the number of contributions that can be submitted in which a participant is listed as co-author or co-organizer.

\*\* *For oral presentations only*: Once notified that their abstracts for oral presentations have been *accepted*, authors will be requested to submit an extended abstract/research summary (1500-2000 words long) by September 15, 2023, or earlier.

\*\*Some of the theme leads will guest-edit special issues with a selected subset of contributions presented under their theme. More details on this opportunity will be shared with invited contributors in due time.

### Abstract selection criteria (for individual and full sessions)

- Relevance to the field of gender and social inclusion research in agri-food systems.
- Relevance to the conference theme, which links research to impact.
- Research has practical and/or theoretical implications.
- Attention to intersectionality and interlocking social dimensions of inequality.
- A focus on gender and power relations rather than on 'women', and on connecting analysis from the individual to institutions and structures – i.e., on systemic change.
- Methodological rigor.
- Research sufficiently advanced to share findings.



The **composition of sessions** will additionally promote:

- Diversity in methodological traditions (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) and research geographies, where relevant.
- Social diversity (in nationalities, stage in career, gender, ...).

## Other Contributions

If you are a representative of smallholder farmer associations, women's groups, or another agri-food system actors who would like to share your own experiences in a format not specified in the call, please email us at [GenderPlatform@cgiar.org](mailto:GenderPlatform@cgiar.org) to discuss and organize. We hope to hear from you by *June 23, 2023* to be able to include your contributions in the programme.

## Let's collaborate!

In addition to participating in and hosting sessions, there are a range of ways for us to work together to share cutting-edge knowledge on gender and inclusion in food systems. Together, we can better bridge the gap between research and practice and foster gender-equal and socially inclusive, resilient food systems.

Here are some ways:

- Submit an abstract for an individual contribution or full session
- Explore other innovative partnership packages:
  - Contribute a 'Dinner' get-together
  - Contribute a 'Welcome reception' get together
  - Partner with us for a Plenary session
  - Partner with us for a Poster session
  - Exhibit at the conference

For detailed information on the above partnership packages and other tailored collaboration options, please write to Vivian Atakos - [v.atakos@cgiar.org](mailto:v.atakos@cgiar.org).

For general inquiries about the conference, please contact the conference secretariat – [genderplatform@cgiar.org](mailto:genderplatform@cgiar.org).

We look forward to welcoming you to the international GENDER research conference: "***Towards just and resilient agri-food systems***" this October, 2023!

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